

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0454
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

UNCLAS ATHENS 7001

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, PFOR, GR

SUBJECT: THESSALONIKI PRESS CONFERENCE BY VICE PRESIDENT OF EC
COMMISSION

REF: ATHENS 5780 (NOTAL)

1. ALL ATHENS PAPERS OF SEPT 12 COVER THESSALONIKI PRESS
CONFERENCE GIVEN PREVIOUS DAY BY EC COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT
CARLO SCARASCIA-MUGNOZZA AT SPECIAL EC PAVILION AT THESSALONIKI
INTERNATIONAL FAIR ON OCCASION EUROPEAN COMMUNITY DAY. SCARASCIA
DECLINED TO PREDICT PERIOD REQUIRED FOR GREEK EC ENTRY, BUT SAID
IT COULD TAKE TWO, THREE OR FIVE YEARS, WHILE CITING PRECEDENT FOR
FOR THREE YEARS IN OTHER CASES. VP EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE
IN GOOD WILL ON BOTH SIDES IN OVERCOMING "POLITICAL" ASPECTS
OF GREEK ENTRY BUT NOTED "TECHNICAL" PROBLEMS IN RAISING
SECTORS OF GREEK ECONOMY TO EC LEVEL. SCARASCIA ALSO EXPRESSED
OPTIMISM REGARDING FUTURE FOR GREEK WINE AND OLIVE OIL
WITHIN COMMON MARKET.

2. REPLYING TO QUESTION ON EC ROLE CONCERNING CYPRUS, HE
NOTED THAT EUROPEAN COMMUNITY INFLUENCE LIMITED TO URGING
GREECE AND TURKEY TO AVOID ACTIONS WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO
DETERIORATION OF SITUATION. IN RESPONSE TO FURTHER QUESTION,
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SCARASCIA DENIED THAT THERE HAS BEEN ANY OFFICIAL TURKISH

REACTION TO GREEK MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND REPORTEDLY
NOTED THAT, AS NON-MEMBER, TURKEY IS NOT IN POSITION TO
INFLUENCE EC POLICY. FINALLY, ASKED ABOUT THE POLITICAL
INDEPENDENCE OF EUROPE, HE REPLIED THAT THE EC STILL LACKS
POLITICAL IDENTITY BECAUSE OF AN ABSENCE OF COOPERATION
ON COMMON POLICIES.

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